THE EXAMINER.

No. 206 SUNDAY, DEC. 8, 1811.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 201.

SCARCITY OF BREAD.

(Concluded from last week.)

The other method of confining the consumption of grain to the limits of necessity, is one that never does, and never can, meet with objection. Every body is agreed that during a scarcity of bread, the least that can be done is to avoid a domestic waste of the invaluable article: but like all other general maxims, this unanimous feeling is rather a matter of opinion than of practice; and with numbers of persons, any attempt to make it otherwise must be hopeless. Of this description are, imprimis, the coarser kind of citizens, who, notwithstanding the caricatures and exaggerations on the subject, do really make what they call good living the chief reward of their daily toils: secondly, the orthodox sensualists, who endeavour to make up for their scruples respecting other enjoyments by indulging their palate; thirdly, a large portion of our fine ladies, who eat and drink themselves into bad nerves, and then try to eat and drink themselves out again; fourthly, an innumerable herd of common-place, small-minded, ruminating animals, in the shape of gossips, club-goers, tavern-diners, nabobs, old women in office, &c. &c.;—in a word, all those spoiled children, of whatever growth, age, or description, who have been accustomed on all occasions to consider themselves and their enjoyments as paramount to every other consideration. To such persons I beg it to be understood, that the present paper is not addressed: I have not the most distant idea of such an appeal; and should as soon think indeed of requesting an ass to have a lively sense of his nature, or a hog in the street to commence Pythagorean, or a *happy* Calvinist to regard the rest of his fellow-creatures as not absolutely condemned to misery in favour of his sect. Education, and the progress of society, must act upon these habits. But there are numbers of rational and good-hearted people, who, from the thoughtlessness common to most persons on ordinary occasions, hinder their charity from acting to its full extent, and are not aware how much can be done in a time of scarcity by the humblest *self-denial* of *individuals*.—To these persons I have the pleasure of addressing myself; and if the following piece of domestic chat on a subject which is continually before their eyes, pretends to be no more than a hint or two to put them in mind of themselves, it will not on that account make the less impression on hearts that are worth touching.

The duty of saving bread, or rather, that I may not use a term capable of being misconstrued by niggardly people, the duty of reducing the consumption of it to it's sufficient and comfortable limits,—has a two-fold care in families, one below stairs, and one above. The former, it will be readily allowed, demands the greater vigilance; but here it is necessary to observe, in order to keep clear of the people just mentioned, and of bad or domineering tempers, that I by no means assume the whole race of servants to be, in the language of the over-virtuous housewives, a set of careless, extravagant, pragmatical, insolent, *ow*dacious, and abominable wretches. It is true, they have their faults and their vices, and so have their superiors; but it may be fairly laid down, that in proportion as the latter are exemplary and well-tempered, the former, generally speaking, and allowing for the difference of education, will be so too,—with this special proviso, however, that the superiors mix decision with good temper, and do not, by a weak and wasteful licence, suffer the credit and good effects of it to be lost. Having thus stopped the mouths of some thousands of notable, stirring ladies, who might otherwise have taken me for a text on which to lecture,—I proceed quietly down to the kitchen to make my economical survey, as far as regards the servants themselves; and here it is amazing to think, in houses that are not careful, what a quantity of bread is wasted above every other article. The modes of wasting it indeed are so numerous and so easy, that SWIFT, in his *Directions to Servants* *, does not think it necessary to say a word on the subject. The most common are in treating visitors and their children, cutting the new bread for luncheons and every petty occasion, and making away with the fragments that come from up stairs, and which in a large or liberal family amount to a serious quantity. The remedies in these cases are obvious, and only require a little good, complacent attention. The regulation of those two-legged rats called visitors is of great concern in every respect, and may be thought very difficult; the first step to ease and security is indeed always difficult; but a few good stumbling-blocks laid aside in the *first* instance are a prodigious help to a smooth road To regulate the kitchen visitors it is absolutely necessary that you should know who they are, and how often and at what time they come: the first step enables you to settle

* It would be as well, by the bye, to keep this book out of the hands of servants, for as the present times have so much advanced in point of delicacy, it is much more likely to be found in the kitchen than in the drawing-room; and though it is written in a vein of exquisite irony, polluted as usual by the taint of his disgusting ribaldry, it is still too plain to the commonest understandings, and may put things into servants' heads, of which even the most ingenious of kitchen politicians have never dreamt.

the proper number, and the two second to hinder them from abusing the permission; otherwise it is in vain for you to look about and wonder how things go: you will have the *rats* eating whole loaves at a time! and more bread, &c. will vanish at a single supper after you are gone to bed than would serve for two or three days up stairs. As to new loaves, they must be absolutely forbidden to be cut; and in order that no excuse, bad or *good*, may be left to the servants for wasting the fragments that remain from meals, it is incumbent on you to let every piece go down as clean and nice as possible, unbroken by the hand, and particularly untouched by children. If no care of this nature be sufficient to influence their conduct, it will be necessary to confine them to a certain portion of bread by the week; and the requisite quantity may be determined in a few days by having two sorts of bread for the family and the servants, which will also guard against a confusion of what is consumed above stairs and below, and prevent all those pathetic appeals of "Ma'am, you can't think what a deal of bread is eaten by the family;" or, "You must be aware, Ma'am, that Master Thomas and Master Richard, who are two such fine boys, don't live upon nothing;" or, "I'm sure, Ma'am, you will have the goodness to recollect that there were visitors last Thursday, Mr. Smith and his family, Mr. Jones and his family, and all the little Williamses; and though to be sure they don't eat more than other people, yet you know, Ma'am, every little helps, and neither you nor my Master, Ma'am, likes to see visitors pinched and stinted like; and all dinner time it's nothing but 'Bread, John!—Some Bread, pray,—some Bread, if you please,'—besides what goes in frying the fish, Ma'am, and serving up this and serving up t'other, so that I often says, Lord, says I, if my Mistress did but see how the bread went, she'd find it quite unconceivable." The uses of bread and flour are indeed so numerous in a kitchen, or may be *made so* by "good, comfortable living," that servants being accustomed on every occasion to be resorting to the bread-bin, or dipping their hands into the flour-pan, acquire an habitual indifference with regard to the waste of them; and thus fragments are suffered to grow stale when new bread is at hand, —what is refused in the parlour will not be eaten in the kitchen,—and what the charitable wasters below will give away at the door, the selfish and hard-hearted will, without any ceremony, fairly throw away. I was once really shocked, on entering a drawing-room, to find a washing-tub standing in the middle of it, very nearly *filled* with stale pieces of bread, among which were rounds of toast, large cuts of loaves, and entire rolls. It had been brought up there to be shewn to the master and mistress, who were a young couple that had set out upon the plan of attaching their servants to them by generous usage, and who received a lesson from the circumstance, which without destroying their intentions on that head, taught them to caution with kindness, and not to confound temptation to do wrong with encouragement to do right. It is proper to add, that the servant who had been guilty of this inhuman waste, turned out to be a complete profligate; but still the habit must have arisen from injudicious indulgence; and in order to be truly kind to servants, it is necessary that they should be deprived of all opportunities to behave ill,—as far, at least, as is consistent with a larger kind of prudence, and with that confidence between master and servant, which it is the interest and credit of the one to create, and the best happiness of the other to deserve.

But the crown and security of all good influence is example. Let the virtues of a house begin up stairs, and they will be felt at least to the bottom. Let the servants see that those whom they obey are considerate, well tempered, benevolent, ready to make sacrifices, and possessed of a proper feeling for the lower orders from whence servants come, and they will be prepared to obey to some purpose, and imitate what they admire. In settling what bread or flour is necessary for proper consumption below stairs, it is certainly the duty of all persons to look to their own waste of it; and they may be assured, that in general it is no small one. I take it for granted that numbers of my readers are heartily desirous to contribute their exertions to the relief of the present scarcity, and I beg them to keep in mind that the present observations, though with much of a general import, are particularly intended in behalf of that scarcity. "But, how," cries one, "am I to set about it? I am not a great eater, if I am to judge from many of my acquaintances, and bread, in particular, I am sure I don't waste. At breakfast, for instance, I have my reasonable quantity of toast or rolls; at dinner a piece of fish—perhaps a sole, a slice of meat, and a piece of tart or pudding.—

A piece of pudding! Come, come,—*two* pieces.

No, not two pieces—not always at any rate—only sometimes, when the paste or the fruit is particularly good.

Your sole too is well done—well browned; and your meat has proper gravy with it.

Yes, I don't like sole unless it is well browned, nor meat much without good gravy; but there's nothing in that, you know.—Well, then,—with my tea I may say, I eat nothing:—

No; you *can't* perhaps.

Can't! Why I don't know whether I *could'nt*, but it is not the custom when one dines late; and at any rate, I have no appetite for it. As to my supper, it is a mere trifle, a piece of bread and cheese, or a cheese cake and a glass of water; and I think, take my day's eating altogether, it is not so very extravagant, nor so very much out of the way for these hard times.

No:—the reader will be ready to agree with me that this is very moderate living—for an Englishman.—Well;—here then is one of the moderate persons whom I address, and with him, of course, all such persons capable of reflection, as are *not* so moderate, from those who are helped twice to meat, to those who are helped three times; all others, in short, who find themselves disposed to be lounging and heavy

after dinner instead of active and sprightly, that is to say, to be *relaxed* instead of *refreshed* by what is called *sustenance*. The first thing of which I beg them to convince themselves is, that they do not eat too much toast or roll at breakfast. I need not stop to talk of the injuriousness of the animal oil which we put upon our bread and which is turned to its very worst state by melting; but hot toast or roll is a very inviting thing, or it would not be eaten instead of plain bread and butter, and I have only to request that those who are inclined to eat more of it than they would of the latter, particularly this cold weather, would only rise up from breakfast (at least while the scarcity lasts) without being, as the phrase is, *quite satisfied*. At the perusal of this very passage perhaps, one of my readers may have just cast a longing and *doubtful* eye upon another piece of toast:—I beseech him to leave it alone:—I acknowledge it's merits; I feel the beautiful combination of the bracing weather, the warm fire, the hissing urn or tea-kettle; and I am quite willing to allow that the paper in his hand renders every thing doubly snug; but pray let him spare it: if he cannot eat a plain piece of bread and butter, he has had enough: in short, *he* does not want it, and *others do*.—At breakfast, therefore, I would recommend, for the present, the simplest and least inviting mode of using the bread,—particularly, as indeed at all other times, for children, whose health, comforts, temper, and understandings, are all best secured by giving them as few artificial wants as possible. At the dinner, it does not seem so easy at first sight to diminish the quantity of bread, since it appears to be served up there only in it's plainest state,—in so many dry, unsophisticated pieces, cut out of the quarry, and absolutely necessary as a foundation for the meal; but not to mention that those with whom potatoes or rice agree may easily forego half their usual portion of bread,—as is the case, I believe, during times like the present in some of our public schools,—more bread, and more flour which makes bread, are expended on a good, common dinner, than people in general can imagine. The pleasant brown, for instance, which my friend describes above, is made of a good powder of crumbs; and the gravy, which he thinks so indispensable, owes its richness or body to flour. According to the quantity therefore of the dishes, the waste of those precious articles mounts up, for the reader has only to look into a common cookery-book to see how universally they enter into the composition of almost every dish that has gravy in it, or stuffing, batter, melted butter, or fifty other provocatives of a similar nature, which quicken the waste that has produced them. Such are the soups of all kinds, the made dishes, the *bread* and other sauces; and last, but not least, the whole family of pastry, with all its relations, legitimate or otherwise, of custards, cakes, fritters, trifles, wafers, &c. &c. Now since it is very possible, with the use of plain bread, and of meat, vegetables, milk, eggs, rice, and fruits, to make out not only a very good wholesome dinner, but, if you please, a very luxurious and unwholesome one, nothing remains, in a time like the present, but to confine flour and bread to their commonest uses, and utterly to discard them from all their masked and hidden services, substituting plain fish and plain gravies for rich, and having nothing to do with pastry of any sort or in any shape. Nothing is more easy; nothing would be more laudable; and the reader may instantly have a pretty exact idea of his own charity or capability of public feeling, by asking himself whether he is or is not prepared to lend his ready assistance to so desirable a task.

The above hints will be quite enough for their immediate purpose with those who can at all feel and act for themselves, and who will probably be induced to carry the reflections they may create to a farther extent and service than the present moment: for much more might be said on the subject, and much more ought to be said by other publications on that general passion for the pleasures of the table, which has become a prominent part of existing English manners, and pollutes the rank and learning of the first people in the land. When we hear of a poor fellow in Saint Giles gormandizing for a wager, and engaging to eat as many oysters as will go round the street, or as much tripe as will make him a jacket, we may laugh or be disgusted without being under the necessity of making humiliating comparisons with the rabble of other countries; but when we see turtle dinners every where on every occasion, and when we are told that such and such a great personage has eaten himself into an asthma, that a Minister has a hundred hams stewed down for a sauce, and that a certain learned Judge beats a certain city-officer by two plates of turtle, we groan for our national character, and are ready to exclaim, in addition to the words of the old Greek, "Oh stomach, how ill art thou treated by those who think they may do any thing with thee, and how fatally dost thou revenge thyself in return!"

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Nov. 23.—Letters from Spain state, that Marshal Suchet had taken Grao, which is the port of Valencia; that his army is actually encamped on the left bank of the Guadalaviar; and that Gen. Blake had retired to the right bank of this river with the remains of his army, which he is endeavouring to re-organise.

UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOV. 5.—The President of the United States this day communicated, by Mr. Edward Coles, his Private Secretary, the following Message to Congress:—

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives,

In calling you together sooner than a separation from your homes would otherwise have been required, I yielded to considerations drawn from the posture of our foreign affairs; and in fixing the present for the time of your meeting, regard was had to the probability of farther developements of the policy of the belligerent powers towards this country, which might the

more unite the national councils in the measures to be pursued.

At the close of the last Session of Congress, it was hoped that the successive confirmations of the extinction of the French Decrees, so far as they violated our neutral commerce, would have induced the Government of Great Britain to repeal its Orders in Council; and thereby authorise a removal of the existing obstructions to her commerce with the United States.

Instead of this reasonable step towards satisfaction and friendship between the two nations, the orders were, at a moment when least to have been expected, put into more rigorous execution; and it was communicated through the British Envoy just arrived, that, whilst the revocation of the Edicts of France, as officially made known to the British Government, was denied to have taken place, it was an indispensable condition of the repeal of the British Orders, that commerce should be restored to a footing, that would admit the productions and manufactures of Great Britain, when owned by neutrals, into markets shut against them by her enemy: the United States being given to understand, that, in the mean time, a continuance of their Non-importation Act would lead to measures of retaliation.

At a later date, it has, indeed, appeared, that a communication to the British Government, of fresh evidence of the repeal of the French Decrees against our neutral trade, was followed by an intimation, that it had been transmitted to the British Plenipotentiary here, in order that it might receive full consideration in the depending discussions. This communication appears not to have been received: but the transmission of it hither, instead of founding on it an actual repeal of the orders, or assurances that the repeal would ensue, will not permit us to rely on any effective change in the British Cabinet. To be ready to meet with cordiality satisfactory proofs of such a change, and to proceed, in the mean time, in adapting our measures to the views which have been disclosed through that Minister, will best consult our whole duty.

In the unfriendly spirit of those disclosures, indemnity and redress for other wrongs have continued to be withheld; and our coasts and the mouths of our harbours have again witnessed scenes, not less derogatory to the dearest of our national rights than vexatious to the regular course of our trade.

Among the occurrences produced by the conduct of British ships of war hovering on our coasts, was an encounter between one of them and the American frigate commanded by Captain Rodgers, rendered unavoidable on the part of the latter, by a fire commenced without cause by the former; whose Commander is, therefore, alone chargeable with the blood unfortunately shed in maintaining the honour of the American flag. The proceedings of a Court of Enquiry, requested by Captain Rodgers, are communicated; together with the correspondence relating to the occurrence, between the Secretary of State and his Britannic Majesty's Envoy. To these are added, the several correspondences which have passed on the subject of the British Orders in Council; and to both, the correspondence relating to the Floridas, in which Congress will be made acquainted with the interposition which the Government of Great Britain has thought proper to make against the proceedings of the U. S.

The justice and fairness which have been evinced on the part of the United States towards France, both before and since the revocation of her decrees, authorised an expectation that her Government would have followed up that measure by all such others as were due to our reasonable claims, as well as dictated by its amicable professions. No proof, however, is yet given of an intention to repair the other wrongs done to the United States; and, particularly, to restore the great amount of American property seized and condemned under edicts, which, though not affecting our neutral relations, and therefore not entering into questions between the United States and other belligerents, were nevertheless founded in such unjust principles, that the reparation ought to have been prompt and ample.

In addition to this and other demands of strict right on that nation, the United States have much reason to be dissatisfied with the rigorous and unexpected restrictions to which their trade with the French dominions has been subjected; and which, if not discontinued, will require at least corresponding restrictions on importations from France into the United States.

On all those subjects our Minister Plenipotentiary, lately sent to Paris, has carried with him the necessary instructions; the result of which will be communicated to you; and by ascertaining the ulterior policy of the French Government towards the United States, will enable you to adapt to it that of the United States towards France.

Our other foreign relations remain without unfavourable changes. With Russia, they are on the best footing of friendship. The ports of Sweden have afforded proofs of friendly dispositions towards our commerce in the councils of that nation also. And the information from our Special Minister to Denmark, shews that the mission had been attended with valuable effects to our citizens, whose property had been so extensively violated and endangered by cruisers under the Danish flag.

Under the ominous indications which commanded attention, it became a duty to exert the means committed to the Executive department, in providing for the general security. The works of defence on our maritime frontier have accordingly been prosecuted with an activity leaving little to be added for the completion of the most important ones; and, as particularly suited for co-operation in emergencies, a portion of the gun-boats have, in particular harbours, been ordered into use. The ships of war before in commission, with the addition of a frigate, have been chiefly employed, as a cruising guard to the rights of our coast; and such a disposition has been made of our land forces, as was thought to promise the services most appropriate and important. In this disposition is included a force, consisting of regulars and militia, embodied in the Indian territory, and marched towards our North Western frontier. This measure was made requisite by several murders and depredations committed by Indians; but more especially by the menacing preparations and aspect of combination of them on the Wabash, under the influence and direction of a fanatic of the Shawanese tribe. With these exceptions, the Indian tribes retain peaceable dispositions towards us, and their usual pursuits.

I must now add, that the period is arrived, which claims from the Legislative Guardians of the national rights a system of more ample provisions for maintaining them. Notwithstanding the scrupulous justice, the protracted moderation, and the multiplied efforts on the part of the United States, to substitute, for the accumulating dangers to the peace of the two countries, all the mutual advantages of re-established friendship and confidence; we have seen that the British Cabinet perseveres, not only in withholding a remedy for other wrongs, so long and so loudly calling for it, but in the execution, brought home to the threshold of our territory, of measures which, under existing circumstances, have the character as well as effect of war on our lawful commerce.

With this evidence of hostile inflexibility, in trampling on rights which no independent nation can relinquish, Congress will feel the duty of putting the United States into an armour and an attitude demanded by the crisis, and corresponding with the national spirit and expectations.

I recommend, accordingly, that adequate provision be made for filling the ranks and prolonging the enlistments of the regular troops; for an auxiliary force, to be engaged for a more limited term; for the acceptance of volunteer corps, whose patriotic ardour may court a participation in urgent services; for detachments, as they may be wanted, of other portions of the militia; and for such a preparation of the great body, as will proportion its usefulness to its intrinsic capacities. Nor can the occasion fail to remind you of the importance of those military seminaries, which, in every event, will form a valuable and frugal part of our military establishment.

The manufacture of cannon and small arms has proceeded with due success, and the stock and resources of all the necessary munitions are adequate to emergencies. It will not be inexpedient however for Congress to authorize an enlargement of them.

Your attention will of course be drawn to such provisions, on the subject of our naval force, as may be required for the services to which it may be best adapted. I submit to Congress the seasonableness, also, of an authority to augment the stock of such materials as are imperishable in their nature, or may not at once be attainable.

In contemplating the scenes which distinguish this momentous epoch, and estimating their claims to our attention, it is impossible to overlook those developing themselves among the great communities which occupy the southern portion of our own hemisphere, and extended into our neighbourhood. An enlarged philanthropy, and an enlightened forecast, concur in imposing on the National Councils an obligation to take a deep interest in their destinies; to cherish reciprocal sentiments of good will; to regard the progress of events; not to be unprepared for whatever order of things may be ultimately established.

Under another aspect of our situation, the early attention of Congress will be due to the expediency of farther guards against evasions and infractions of our commercial laws. The practice of smuggling, which is odious every where, and particularly criminal in free governments, where, the laws being made by all for the good of all, a fraud is committed on every individual as well as on the State, attains its utmost guilt, when it blends, with a pursuit of ignominous gain, a treacherous subserviency, in the transgressors, to a foreign policy adverse to that of their own country. It is then that the virtuous indignation of the public should be enabled to manifest itself, through the regular animadversions of the most competent laws.

To secure greater respect to our mercantile flag, and to the honest interests which it covers, it is expedient, also, that it be made punishable in our citizens to accept licences from foreign Governments, for a trade unlawfully interdicted by them to other American citizens; or to trade under false colours or papers of any sort.

A prohibition is equally called for against the acceptance, by our citizens, of special licences, to be used in a trade with the United States; and against the admission into particular ports of the United States, of vessels from foreign countries, authorised to trade with particular ports only.

Although other subjects will press more immediately on your deliberations, a portion of them cannot but be well bestowed on the just and sound policy of securing to our manufacturers the success they have attained, and are still attaining, in some degree, under the impulse of causes not permanent; and to our navigation, the fair extent of which is at present abridged, by the unequal regulations of foreign governments.

Besides the reasonableness of saving our manufacturers from sacrifices which a change of circumstances might bring on them, the national interest requires, that, with respect to such articles, at least, as belong to our defence and our primary wants, we should not be left in unnecessary dependence on external supplies. And whilst foreign governments adhere to existing discriminations in their ports against our navigation, and an equality or lesser discrimination is enjoyed by their navigation in our ports, the effect cannot be mistaken, because it has been seriously felt by our shipping interests; and in proportion as this takes place, the advantages of an independent conveyance of our products to foreign markets, and of a growing body of mariners, trained by their occupations for the service of their country in times of danger, must be diminished.

The receipts into the Treasury, during the year ending on the 30th of September last, have exceeded 13 millions and an half of dollars; and have enabled us to defray the current expences, including the interest on the public debt, and to reimburse more than five millions of dollars of the principal, without recurring to the loan authorised by the Act of the last Session. The temporary loan obtained in the latter end of the year 1810, has also been reimbursed, and is not included in the amount.

The decrease of revenue, arising from the situation of our commerce and the extraordinary expences which have and may become necessary, must be taken into view, in making commensurate provisions for the ensuing year. And I recommend to your consideration the propriety of ensuring a sufficiency of annual revenue, at least to defray the ordinary expences of government, and to pay the interest on the public debt, including that on new loans which may be authorised.

I cannot close this communication without expressing my deep sense of the crisis in which you are assembled, my confidence in a wise and honourable result to your deliberations, and assurances of the faithful zeal with which my co-operating duties will be discharged; invoking, at the same time, the blessing of Heaven on our beloved country, and on all the means that may be employed in vindicating its rights and advancing its welfare. (Signed) JAMES MADISON.

Washington, Nov. 5, 1811.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

A most atrocious murder was committed at Fowey, on the 25th ult., on the body of Israel Foulach Valentine, a young man of the Jewish persuasion, who was found drowned near the quay, with his jaw-bone broken, head fractured, and his pockets turned inside out. A Jury being summoned, after sitting ten hours, brought in a verdict, "drowned by W. Wyatt, innkeeper of Fowey," who was accordingly committed to Bodmin gaol. The prisoner was late a publican in the town, and the deceased seems to have been enticed to Fowey by Wyatt's pretending that he knew a person who had some *buttons* (a cant word for guineas) to dispose of. A few evenings after the poor young man's arrival there, Wyatt and himself were seen walking together on the fatal quay, from whence the latter appears to have been precipitated into the water by the former, as two sailors, in a merchant-vessel lying near the spot, gave evidence, that they heard the deceased exclaim, most probably as he was falling, "Oh, Mr. Wyatt! oh, Mr. Wyatt!" in a tone of agony. It is supposed that Wyatt must have leapt into the water at the same time, and kept the deceased under until life was extinguished, in order that he might be enabled to rob him, without molestation, of a considerable sum, known to be in his pockets when he left the inn. On Wyatt's return to the inn, after committing the murder, another Jew who had accompanied Valentine to Fowey, became very uneasy at his friend's absence, and intimating his anxiety, Wyatt exclaimed, ungardedly, "What! have you not heard that he is drowned?" This expression, evidently dictated by the suggestions of a guilty mind, naturally excited suspicion, and enquiries being set on foot, it was discovered that Wyatt had not only been seen on the quay with the deceased, but also loitering about his stable at an untimely hour, on the night when the crime was committed. On searching the premises, the sum of 260*l.* in notes was found concealed in a dunghcap near the stable door, which converted suspicion of the prisoner's guilt into certainty. As a further corroboration of it, in the prisoner's waistcoat-pocket were found the identical letter he had written to Valentine, inviting him down, together with a Hebrew letter to the deceased.

On the evening of Sunday, Mr. P———, a gentleman of independent property, residing at Barton's Manor, near Chipping Barnet, put a period to his existence by lacerating his throat with a case knife. The deceased suffered much in body and intellect by a raging fever, but he had been much better several days, and ate a hearty dinner on Sunday. He left his family about eight o'clock and went into the kitchen, where he seized a knife and committed the rash act. The deceased lingered until the following day, when he expired.

On Saturday week, at about twenty minutes before three, a shock, resembling that of an earthquake, was felt very generally in the towns of Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport, and vicinity. It was instantaneous, and caused such a tremendous motion in many houses, that as many as twenty families were awoke by it, and sprung out of bed to ascertain its cause. To many persons whom it awoke, it appeared as though some heavy body had been moved in the lower part of the house, and shook its whole fabric; to others, it was a sudden motion of the bed, as though caused by the main strength of a person standing near it; the furniture in their rooms cracked, and the handles of chairs moved, as by an electric shock. Several soldiers on guard say, that it was attended by a hollow rumbling noise; and several people belonging to vessels in the harbour, describe the water as violently agitated for some minutes. It appears to have lasted inland near a minute.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2.

Downing-street, December 1, 1811.

Captain Hill, Aid-de-Camp to Lieut.-General Hill, arrived

this day at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, with a Dispatch, addressed to his Lordship by General Viscount Wellington, dated Frenada, 6th November, 1811, of which the following is an extract:—

I informed your Lordship, in my dispatches of the 23d and 30th of October, of the orders which I had given to Lieut.-General Hill to move into Estremadura, with the troops under his command, and with his progress to the 26th of October. He marched on the 27th by Aldea del Cano to Alcuesca, and on the 28th, in the morning, surprized the enemy's troops under Gen. Girard at Arroyo del Molino, and dispersed the division of infantry, and the cavalry which had been employed under the command of that General, taking General Brune, the Duc d'Aremberg, and about one thousand three hundred prisoners, three pieces of cannon, &c. &c. and having killed many in the action with the enemy, and in the subsequent pursuit. Gen. Girard escaped wounded; and by all accounts which I have received, Gen. Dubrocqskie was killed. I beg to refer your Lordship for the details of Lieut.-Gen. Hill's operations to the 30th October, to his dispatch to me of that date from Merida, a copy of which I enclose. I have frequently had the pleasure to report to your Lordship the zeal and ability with which Lieut.-Gen. Hill had carried into execution the operations entrusted to his charge; and I have great satisfaction in repeating my commendations of him and of the brave troops under his command, upon the present occasion, in which the ability of the General, and the gallantry and discipline of the Officers and troops have been conspicuous. I send with Gen. Hill's dispatch a plan of the ground, and of the operations on the 28th of October, by Capt. Hill, the General's brother and Aid-de-Camp, who attended him in the action, and will be able to give your Lordship any further details which you may require. I beg leave to recommend him to your protection.

Merida, October 30, 1811.

My Lord,—In pursuance of the instructions which I received from your Lordship, I put a portion of the troops under my orders in motion on 22d instant, from their cantonments in the neighbourhood of Portalegre, and advanced with them towards the Spanish frontier. On the 23d the head of the column reached Albuquerque, when I learnt that the enemy, who had advanced to Aliseda, had fallen back to Arroyo del Puerco, and that the Spaniards were again in possession of Aliseda. On the 24th, I had a brigade of British infantry, half a brigade of Portuguese artillery (six pounders), and some of my cavalry, at Aliseda; and the remainder of my cavalry, another brigade of British infantry, and half a brigade of Portuguese six-pounders, at Casa de Cantillana, about a league distant. On the 25th, the Count de Penne Villamur made a reconnoissance with his cavalry, and drove the enemy from Arroyo del Puerco. The enemy retired to Malpartida, which place he occupied as an advanced post, with about three hundred cavalry and some infantry, his main body being still at Caceres. On the 26th, at day-break, the troops arrived at Malpartida, and found that the enemy had left that place, retiring towards Caceres, followed by a small party of the 2d Hussars, who skirmished with his rear-guard. I was shortly afterwards informed, that the whole of the enemy's force had left Caceres; but the want of certainty as to the direction he had taken, and the extreme badness of the weather, induced me to halt the Portuguese and British troops at Malpartida for that night.—The Spaniards moved on to Caceres.

Having received certain information that the enemy had marched on Torre Mocha, I put the troops at Malpartida in motion on the morning of the 27th, and advanced by the road leading to Merida, through Aldea del Cano and Casa de Don Antonio, being a shorter route than that followed by the enemy, and which afforded a hope of being able to intercept and bring him to action; and I was here joined by the Spaniards from Caceres. On the march I received information, that the enemy had only left Torre Mocha that morning, and that he had again halted his main body at Arroyo del Molino, leaving a rear-guard at Albala, which was a satisfactory proof that he was ignorant of the movements of the troops under my command. I therefore made a forced march to Alcuesca that evening, where the troops were so placed as to be out of sight of the enemy's and no fires were allowed to be made. On my arrival at Alcuesca, which is within a league of Arroyo del Molino, every thing tended to confirm me in the opinion that the enemy was not only in total ignorance of my near approach, but extremely off his guard; and I determined upon attempting to surprize, or at least to bring him to action, before he should march in the morning, and the necessary dispositions were made for that purpose.

The town of Arroyo del Molino is situated at the foot of one extremity of the Sierra of Montanches; the mountain running from it to the rear, in the form of a crescent, almost every where inaccessible, the two points being about two miles asunder. The Truxillo road runs round that to the eastward. The road leading from the town to Merida runs at right angles with that from Alcuesca, and the road to Medellin passes between those to Truxillo and Merida. The ground over which the troops had to manœuvre being a plain, thinly scattered with oak and cork trees, my object of course was to place a body of troops so as to cut off the retreat of the enemy by any of these roads.

The troops moved from their Bivouack near Alcuesca, about two o'clock in the morning of the 28th, in one column right in front, direct on Arroyo del Molino, and in the following order:—Major-Gen. Howard's brigade of infantry (1st battalion 50th, 71st, and 92d regiments, and one company of the 60th), Colonel Wilson's brigade (1st battalion 28th, 2d battalion 34th, and 2d battalion 39th, and one company of the 60th), 6th Portuguese regiment of the line, and 6th Cacadores under Colonel Ashworth, the Spanish infantry under Brigadier-Gen. Morillo, Major-Gen. Long's brigade of cavalry (2d Hussars, 9th and 13th light dragoons) and the Spanish cavalry under the Conde de Penne Villamur. They moved in this order until within half a mile of the town of Arroyo del Molino, when under cover of a low ridge, the column closed, and divided into three columns. Major-Gen. Howard's brigade and three six-pounders under Lieut.-Col. Stewart, supported by Brigadier-General Morillo's infantry, the left; Col. Wilson's brigade, the Portuguese infantry under Col. Ashworth, two six pounders and a howitzer, the right, under Major-Gen. Howard; and the cavalry, the centre.

As the day dawned, a violent storm of rain and thick mist came on, under cover of which the columns advanced in the direction, and in the order which had been pointed out to them. The left column under Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart marched direct upon the town, the 71st, one company of the 60th, and the 92d regiment at quarter distance, and the 50th in close column somewhat in the rear, with the guns as a reserve.—The right column under Major-Gen. Howard, having the 39th regiment as a reserve, broke off to the right, so as to turn the enemy's left; and having gained about the distance of a cannon-shot to that flank, it marched in a circular direction upon the further point of the crescent on the mountain above mentioned. The cavalry under Lieut.-Gen. Sir Wm. Erskine moved between the two columns of infantry ready to act in front, or move round either of them, as occasion might require. The advance of our columns was unperceived by the enemy until they approached very near, at which moment he was filing out of the town upon the Merida road; the rear of his column, some of his cavalry and part of his baggage being still in; one brigade of his infantry had marched for Medellin, an hour before daylight. The 71st and 92d regiments charged into the town with cheers, and drove the enemy every where at the point of the bayonet, having a few of their men cut down by the enemy's cavalry. The enemy's infantry which had got out of the town, had, by the time these regiments arrived at the extremity of it, formed into two squares, with the cavalry on their left; the whole was posted between the Merida and Medellin roads, fronting Alcuesca. The right square being formed within half musket shot of the town, the garden walls of which were promptly lined by the 71st light infantry, while the 92d regiment filed out and formed line on their right, perpendicular to the enemy's right flank, which was much annoyed by the well-directed fire of the 71st. In the mean time one wing of the

50th regiment occupied the town, and secured the prisoners, and the other wing, along with the three six-pounders, skirted the outside of it, the artillery as soon as within range, firing with great effect upon the squares. Whilst the enemy was thus occupied on his right, Major-Gen. Howard's column continued moving round his left; and our cavalry advancing, and crossing the head of their column, cut off the enemy's cavalry from his infantry, charging it repeatedly, and putting it to the route. The 13th light dragoons, at the same time, took possession of the enemy's artillery. One of the charges made by the two squadrons of the 2d Hussars, and one of the 9th Light Dragoons, was particularly gallant; the latter commanded by Capt. Gore, the whole under Major Bussche, of the Hussars. I ought previously to have mentioned, that the British cavalry having, through the darkness of the night and the badness of the roads, been somewhat delayed, the Spanish cavalry under the Count de Penne Villamur was, on this occasion, the first to form upon the plain, and engaged the enemy, until the British were enabled to come up. The enemy was now in full retreat, but Major General Howard's column having gained the point to which it was directed, and the left column gaining fast upon him, he had no resource but to surrender or to disperse, and ascend the mountain. He preferred the latter, and ascending near the eastern extremity of the ascent, and which might have been deemed inaccessible, was followed closely by the 28th and 34th regiments, whilst the 39th regiment, and Col. Ashworth's Portuguese infantry, followed round the foot of the mountain by the Truxillo road; to take him again in flank. At the same time, Brigadier-Gen. Morillo's infantry ascended at some distance to the left with the same view.

As may be imagined, the enemy's troops were by this time in the utmost panic; his cavalry was flying in every direction, the infantry threw away their arms, and the only effort of either was to escape. The troops under Major-Gen. Howard's command, as well as those he had sent round the point of the mountain, pursued them over the rocks, making prisoners at every step, until his own men became so exhausted and few in number, that it was necessary for him to halt and secure the prisoners, and leave the further pursuit to the Spanish infantry under Gen. Morillo; who, from the direction in which they had ascended, had now become the most advanced. The force Gen. Girard had with him at the commencement, which consisted of 2500 infantry and 600 cavalry, being at this time totally dispersed. In the course of these operations, Brigadier-Gen. Campbell's brigade of Portuguese infantry (the 4th and 10th regiments) and the 18th Portuguese infantry, joined from Casa de Don Antonio, where they had halted for the preceding night; and as soon as I judged they could no longer be required at the scene of action, I detached them with the brigade consisting of the 50th, 71st, and 92d regiments, and Major-Gen. Long's brigade of cavalry, towards Merida. They reached St. Pedro that night, and entered Merida this morning; the enemy having, in the course of the night, retreated from hence in great alarm to Almendralego. The Count de Penne Villamur formed the advanced guard with his cavalry, and had entered the town previous to the arrival of the British.

The ultimate consequences of these operations I need not point out to your Lordship; their immediate result is the capture of one General of cavalry (Brune), one Colonel of cavalry (the Prince D'Aremberg), one Lieutenant-Colonel (Chief of the Etat-Major), one Aid-de-Camp of Gen. Girard, two Lieutenant-Colonels, one Commissaire de Guerre, 30 Captains and inferior Officers, and upwards of 1000 of non-commissioned officers and soldiers, already sent off under an escort to Portalegre; the whole of the enemy's artillery, baggage, and commissariat, some magazines of corn, which he had collected at Caceres and Merida, and the contribution of money which he had levied on the former town, besides the total dispersion of Gen. Girard's corps. The loss of the enemy in killed must also have been severe, while that on our side was comparatively trifling, as appears by the accompanying return, in which your Lordship will lament to see the name of Lieut. Strenuwitz, Aide-de-Camp to Lieut.-Gen. Sir Wm. Erskine, whose extreme gallantry led him into the midst of the enemy's cavalry, and occasioned his being taken prisoner.

Thus has ended an expedition which, although not bringing into play to the full extent the gallantry and spirit of those engaged, will, I trust, give them a claim to your Lordship's approbation. No praise of mine can do justice to their admirable conduct; the patience and good will shewn by all ranks during forched marches in the worst of weather; their strict attention to the orders they received, the precision with which they moved to the attack, and their obedience to command during the action; in short, the manner in which every one has performed his duty from the first commencement of the operation, merits my warmest thanks, and will not, I am sure, pass unobserved by your Lordship.

To Lieut.-Gen. Sir Wm. Erskine, I must express my obligations for his assistance and advice upon all occasions; to Major-Gen. Howard, who dismounted and headed his troops up the difficult ascent of the Sierra, and throughout most ably conducted his column, and to Major-Gen. Long for his exertions at the head of his brigade, I feel myself particularly indebted. I must also express my obligations to Col. Wilson, Col. Ashworth, and Lieut.-Col. Stewart, commanding brigades, for the able manner in which they led them; Lieut. Col. Cameron, the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Cadogan, the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Abercromby, and Lieut.-Colonels Fenwick, Muter, and Lindsay, Majors Harrison and Bussche, Major Parke, commanding the light companies, and Capt. Gore, commanding the 9th Light Dragoons, Major Hartmann, commanding the artillery, Lieut.-Col. Grant, and Major Birmingham, of the Portuguese service, Capt. Arresagn, of the Portuguese artillery, whose guns did so much execution, severally merit my warmest approbation by their conduct; and I must not omit to mention the exertions made by Brigadier-Gen. Campbell and his troops, to arrive in time to give their assistance.

Gen. Giron, the Chief of Gen. Castanos' staff, and second in command of the 5th Spanish Army, has done me the honour to accompany me during these operations; and I feel much indebted to him for his assistance and valuable advice. Brigadier-Gen. the Count De Penne Villamur, Brigadier-Gen. Morillo, Col. Downie, and the Spanish officers and soldiers in general, have conducted themselves in a manner to excite my warmest approbation.

To Lieut.-Colonel Rooke, Assistant Adjutant General, and Lieut.-Col. Offeney, Assistant Quarter-master General, for the able manner in which they have conducted their departments, and also for their valuable assistance and advice which I have at all times received from them; to the Officers of the Adjutant and Quarter-master General's departments; to Capt. Squire of the Royal Engineers, for his intelligence and indefatigable exertions during the whole operation, and to Capt. Currie and my personal staff, my warmest thanks are due.

This Dispatch will be delivered to your Lordship by Captain Hill, my First Aid-de-Camp, to whom I beg to refer your Lordship for all further particulars. I have the honour to be, &c.

R. Hill, Lieut.-Gen.

To General Viscount Wellington.

P. S. Since writing the above Report, a good many more prisoners have been made; and I doubt not but the whole will amount to 13 or 1400. Brigadier-Gen. Morillo has just returned from the pursuit of the dispersed, whom he followed for eight leagues. He reports, that besides those killed in the plain, upwards of 600 dead were found in the woods and mountains. Gen. Girard escaped in the direction of Serena, with 2 or 300 men, mostly without arms, and is stated by his own Aid-de-Camp to be wounded.

Killed, Wounded, and Missing.

Total British loss.—Seven rank and file, 5 horses, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Majors, 4 Captains, 4 Serjeants, 47 rank and file, 11 horses, wounded; 1 General Staff missing.

Total Portuguese loss.—Six rank and file wounded.

Officers Wounded and Missing.

Wounded.—2d Hussars, King's German Legion—Major Bussche and Captain Schultze, slightly.

2d Batt. 39th Foot.—Capt. Sanderson, severely.

1st Batt. 92d Foot.—Lieut. Col. Cameron, slightly; Captain

Donald M'Donald, severely; Capt. J. M'Pherson, severely, but not dangerously: Brevet Major Dunbar, slightly.

Missing.—21st Light Dragoons—Lieut. Strenuwitz, Aid-de-Camp to Lieut.-Gen. Sir Wm. Erskine, Bart.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing-street, December 3.

A Letter, of which the enclosed is an Extract, has been received from Col. Green, employed on a particular service in Catalonia, dated head-quarters, Calaf, Oct. 9:—

I am happy in having the honour to inform your Lordship, that there now appears to be a very increased degree of activity and much success in the remnant of this principality. The army is increasing very fast; nearly six hundred deserters have presented themselves in five days. The battalions of reserve, which are composed of married men, and others which are exempted from service in the army, are becoming disciplined and numerous; and the small patriotic parties are daily intercepting the little detachments of the enemy, evincing remarkable instances of valour, and proving a severe check to the communications of the enemy, which they themselves complain of in desponding terms. On the 4th inst. Gen. Lacy put himself at the head of 2000 infantry and 500 cavalry; and in the night surprised the town of Igualada, he leading the cavalry; and upon being challenged by the centinel, "Qui vive," answered, "France," and rushed upon the advanced post, which he destroyed, and galloped into the town, where he killed upwards of 150 men, made a few prisoners, and took some stores, and the equipage of the General and the Officers, the former being obliged to escape in his shirt to the Capuchin Convent, which had been previously fortified, and where the principal part of the troops were quartered; but which requiring cannon to reduce, Gen. Lacy left it till he could receive guns from Cardona, and retired to this town, meditating an expedition upon Cervera.—On the 7th inst., a small force was detached, under the orders of the Baron Eroles, to intercept a convoy near Iorba, which was done with complete success, the Baron taking the whole, consisting of four hundred mules loaded with corn, five hundred goats, and other very necessary articles of the Commissariat, completely routing the three hundred men composing the escort, and dispersing three hundred more and fifty horse, which had moved rapidly from Igualada to support the former. I have the satisfaction also to state to your Lordship, that since Gen. Suchet has left the Lower Catalonia, the Partidas Partriticas and Somatenes have killed and wounded, even by the French account, upwards of 1500 men. The proportion the enemy has lost in Upper Catalonia, since the fall of Figueras, has not been so considerable; but what contributes very much in favour of the principality at this moment, is, the sickness which prevails in the army of Macdonald, who has upwards of 3000 men sick from tertian fevers.

Calaf, October 10.

P. S. I have the satisfaction to inform your Lordship, that I have just received intelligence of the enemy's having evacuated Igualada; and I have also received a letter from the Baron Eroles, stating, that he is now blockading a detachment of the French which are fortified in the College of Gervera, the capture of which will give into the hands of the Catalans a large depot of corn, will destroy all communications between Barcelona and Lerida, and open the most important roads to the Spaniards, tending again to restrict the enemy entirely to the limits of his garrisons, which, if not reinforced, will be in a precarious state, as Suchet has nearly drained those of Lower Catalonia, to increase his force operating in the kingdom of Valencia.

Downing-street, December 3.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, has been this day received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by General Viscount Wellington, dated Frenada, Nov. 13:—

By the accounts which I have received from Cadiz, of the 29th of October, it appears that the enemy had retired from Algesiras and St. Roque on the night of the 21st of October.—Gen. Ballasteros had pursued their rear guard, against which he had some success. Col. Skerrett conducted with great judgment the detachment of the British troops of which he had the command at Tarifa; and his movements towards the enemy's communication must have shewn them the impracticability of remaining in the position which they had taken. It appears that the country on both banks of the Tagus as far up as Aranjuez, has been made over by the Emperor to Marshal Marmont for the support of the Army of Portugal. This arrangement has reduced Joseph Bonaparte to the greatest distress, as the produce of that country was all that he had to depend upon; and he was actually subsisting upon the money produced by the retail sale of the grain forcibly levied from the people. This grain having been thus levied and sold by Joseph, has been seized again by Marmont's orders, and taken from the people, who had purchased it from Joseph's magazines, who have been informed that the King had no right to sell it.

Admiralty-Office, Dec. 2.

Extract of a Letter from the Hon. Rear-Admiral Legge, dated on board his Majesty's ship Revenge, in Cadiz Bay, 15th of November:—

The British forces under Col. Skerrett still continue at or near Tarifa. Gen. Ballasteros, on the 5th instant, surprised a corps of the enemy under Gen. Semelie, between Bornos and Xeres, taking upwards of 100 prisoners, with all their baggage and mules, and leaving many dead on the field of battle.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

J. Smith, Tabernacle Walk, merchant, from November 19, to January 7.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Chamberlain, Hanwell, Middlesex, mealman.
W. Rowley, Cleveland-street, Fitzroy-square, engine-maker.
J. Hill, Peterborough, draper.
J. Potts, Hulme Wallfield, Cheshire, corn-dealer.
G. Gorton, Upper Dorset-street, Marylebone, builder.
R. Dodson, Liverpool, merchant.
J. Rosseter, Bristol, dealer.
J. Forshaw, Liverpool, merchant.
C. Hayter, Staines, bell-hanger.
M. Bentley, Wakefield, woolstapler.
J. Goldsmith, Lewes, carpenter.
J. Merrick, Pendleton, Lancashire, alehouse-keeper.
T. Forsyth, Burslem, Stafford, draper.
R. Edwards, Monmouth, draper.
J. Ogle, New City Chambers, insurance-broker.
T. Hugden, Brighton, builder.
J. Caldwell, Bolton, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains various details of actions in Spain. Col. Green announces the surrender of Cevera with 300 Frenchmen, their evacuation of Mountserrat, and the taking of the Castle of Bellpuig, where the Spaniards made 160 prisoners: so that, he says, the whole space between Lerida and Barcelona is now free, and important consequences daily shew themselves. Macdonald's corps, he adds, is prevented moving by these measures and its increasing sickness, and Barcelona is straightened for provisions.—Sir Howard Douglas states, that Mina had made a successful movement into Arragon, where he defeated 1,160 Frenchmen, all of whom, with the exception of *three* men, were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. Mina's force, he says, consisted only of 900 men.—Capt. Codrington sends to Sir Edw. Pellew a journal of the proceedings in Valencia and its vicinity: he says that the Spaniards lost, by their own account, in the late battle with Suchet, 2000 men, with eight or nine pieces of cannon.—Blake and his army are now within the walls of Valencia (27th Oct.), and Capt. Codrington says that it is generally understood that the city is to be defended as long as possible.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. Dunkerley, Pitt-Bank, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Hallan and J. Worr, Clerkenwell-green, jewellers.
T. Clarke, Exeter, draper.
J. Cooke, jun. North Shields, glover.
R. Harvey, Edmonton, Middlesex, carpenter.
T. Starkey, Chingford, Essex, innkeeper.
J. Atcheson, West Smithfield, coal-merchant.
J. H. Barlow, Grange-court, Carey-street, pearl-stringer.
D. Buchanan and R. Brun, Liverpool, merchants.
R. Shield, Tynemouth-place, North Shields, ship-owner.
G. and T. Roebuck, Hunshelf, Yorkshire, clothiers.
W. Allen, Birmingham, silver-plater.
H. Garton, Nottingham, hosier.
W. Dunn, Wednesbury, Warwickshire, draper.
J. and R. Roberts, Spitalfields, silk-manufacturers.
T. Jones, Whitechapel-road, tallow-chandler.
R. and R. Pittman, Watling-street, warehousemen.
L. Wilkinson, Nottingham, hosier.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols for Opening, 64 | Red. Ann.....62⅜

The packet of which Mr. J. R. speaks, is left out for him at the place to which he sent it the other day.

REMARKS on the new Actor, Mr. GRANT, in our next.

Some OBSERVATIONS on the late ORDER of the ADMIRALTY LORDS, respecting the CLERKS in the VICTUALLING DEPARTMENT, next week.

Correspondents will readily perceive why their Communications are postponed.

THE EXAMINER.

London, DECEMBER 8.

THE accounts from General HILL and from the Spaniards under BLAKE confirm the late proceedings of those Officers, which were so honourable to each of them, though of different success. A curious confirmation, too, of the apparently pacific intentions of Sweden, has occurred at home, if it is true, as asserted, that our Government has ordered the restitution of all the Swedish property detained in England; and it is no weak proof, in addition, of the general feelings of the Swedish powers, to find the President of the United States, in his Message to Congress, boasting of their "friendly dispositions," and of the facilities which they are willing to afford the American trade.

But what to make of this Message altogether, it is not very easy to determine. Those who speculate warmly upon commerce with the United States, are eager to interpret it favourably, while others, who are willing to think the Americans hostile to us, find out a great deal of rancour in it. Perhaps the impartial reader will make the same conclusions as the latter, when he perceives that although Mr. MADISON does at last venture to complain of France for her outrages upon the trade and property of his countrymen, yet he does it with so studious a separation of it from other questions, and with so much coquettish unwillingness of reproach, as to make it an ordinary expostulation *compared* with the broad manner in which he denounces our conduct as decidedly unfriendly and disgraceful to the "dearest rights" of America. The general object of the Message, however, seems to be merely to inform the Congress, that the President has really not yet determined what course to pursue between the two powers, and that all he has to say at present is to advise his countrymen to look after their manufactures and militia, and to be prepared to *take advantage of* whatever may turn up in either hemisphere. This may be prudent policy with regard to the European Belligerents, though to many persons it will appear very like indecision and imbecility; but when it is considered that the Government of the United States,—the republican Government,—the steady maintainer of freedom,—has never chosen to offend BONAPARTE even by a sigh of commiseration for the liberties upon which he is trampling, and that this doctrine of waiting to take advantage of whatever may happen is applied to the struggles of liberty in the southern part of the same continent, the world will know how to reduce American prudence, as it now stands *confessed*, to it's proper character of a narrow and selfish cunning. Speaking of the great and awful events that are occupying the South Americans, Mr. MADISON says, "An *enlarged philanthropy* and an *enlightened forecast* concur in imposing on the National Councils an obligation to take a *deep interest* in their destinies;" which "deep interest" he explains to consist, not in a hearty and brotherly sympathy with the cause of freedom, but in watching at a comfortable distance the "progress of events," and being prepared "for *whatever order of things* may be ultimately established." This is the true, profligate selfishness, the cold-blooded indifference to right and wrong, which characterises old and corrupt Governments, and which, if it speaks the general sentiments of the Congress, really appears to justify the assertions of those who represent the American States as an instance of premature debauchery in politics.

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A Conspiracy was discovered, in August last, the object of which was to overthrow the old Spanish Government in Mexico. The Vicroy VANEGAS had caused many of the Conspirators to be arrested, and three of the leaders to be put to death, a fate which, it is said, awaited a number of others.—All this butchery might well be spared, for nothing can finally prevent the independence of South America.

The PRESIDENT's Message was received at Cork on the 1st instant, after an astonishing passage of only 19 days.

A letter from Plymouth, dated on Wednesday, says—"The Diana frigate arrived here last night, from a cruise off Brest: on the 19th ult. her boats, and those of the Growler gun-brig, cut out a French brig, taking out the Frenchmen, and put on board Mr. ANDREWS, Master's Mate; a Quarter-master, named BOLEN; Mr. WINSLAND, Captain's Steward; and four seamen belonging to the Diana, and two belonging to the Growler.—After they left the frigate, two black men who were on board, joined by the two men from the Growler, who were foreigners in our service, rose upon the crew, and killed Mr. ANDREWS, the

Master's Mate, by thrusting a crow-bar through his skull. They then called Mr. Bolen, the Quarter-master, up from his sleep, and asked him if he would join with them? but, on his answering in the negative, one of the blacks killed him on the spot, by striking him on the head. They afterwards went below, and killed Mr. Winsland, the Steward, as he lay asleep in his cot, and threw the three bodies overboard. The other two men belonging to the Diana they compelled to assist in navigating the vessel, which they intended to have carried into Brest; but the wind being contrary, and after being in their possession four days, the Diana and Aquilon again fell in with them, took out the murderers, and put others on board. These wretches are arrived here to take their trial by a Court-Martial.—The brig has not arrived."

It now appears after a correct examination, that the deficiency of Mr. Hunt, late Treasurer of the Board of Ordnance, amounts to 91,000*l.* some odd shillings.

Nottingham.—Various letters from Nottingham mention, that the workmen continue their practice of frame-breaking. On Monday and Tuesday nights, much mischief was done at Ilkiston; and several frames were broken, about the same time, in the vicinity of Nottingham.

Nuisances.—In the Court of King's Bench, on Friday, Mr. Clark's manufactory for boiling bones, between Battle-bridge and Islington, was pronounced by the Jury to be a nuisance; and of course the evil must be stopped. The abominable smell which arose from this manufactory was not only proved to invade the comforts of the neighbours, but even to annoy and frighten the *horses* as they passed the road.

Mr. Meux, the brewer, was on Friday, in the Court of King's Bench, adjudged to pay 30*l.* to Mr. Wilson, the Surgeon, for the damage done to his person as well as his curricle, by the negligence of a drayman in Mr. M.'s service. It was urged for the defendant, what Mr. Whitbread had formerly alledged, that he could not get Gentlemen to drive his drays;—but Lord Ellenborough remarked, that such actions were the only means of preventing the furious and dangerous rate at which drays generally drove through the streets.

In the Court of Common Pleas, on Friday, Mr. Serjeant Best conducted himself in a very spirited manner. He was employed in an Insurance Case; having said, that if his points were not received, he would tender a bill of exceptions, and continuing still to urge his point, Sir James Mansfield remarked, that if a Counsel chose to be *obstinate*, he might talk for ever.—Serjeant Best replied, that if his Lordship meant the word *obstinate* in its abusive sense, he would tell his Lordship and the Court, that his conduct did not deserve so severe and so unjust a reprehension: he was never more obstinate than his duty to his Client demanded.—Sir James observed, that it was sometimes the duty of a Counsel to be obstinate.—Serjeant Best said, that it appeared to him a kind of language which no Judge ought to use without foundation: he would tender his bill of exceptions, and he would have the judgment of the Court of King's Bench whether he was obstinate or not!—Sir James replied, that was what he wished him to do, and then he should hear no more of the business.

On Wednesday the Lord Mayor held the first Court of Common Council in his Mayoralty. The thanks of the Court were unanimously voted to the late Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor stated, that he had convened the Court in consequence of a requisition he had received, to consider the propriety of addressing his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, for suspending the use of grain in the distilleries; and of adopting such other measures as may be best calculated to prevent a farther rise in the prices of all kinds of corn.—The business was opened by Mr. Alderman Wood; and after considerable debate, a Committee was appointed, who prepared the draft of an address, which was ordered to be presented to his Royal Highness by the whole Court.

On Monday when the Middlesex Sessions commenced, the Chairman, in his charge to the Grand Jury, took occasion to press on their consideration the present shameful, filthy, unsafe, and almost impassable state of many of the immediate avenues from the country to the metropolis, most of which were perilous to passengers, in carriages or on foot; and were becoming, in fact, most prominent nuisances, which loudly claimed the attention of the Grand Inquest of the county of Middlesex, in order to some immediate and effectual remedy. He also made some strong remarks on the ineffective state of the Police in that part of the metropolis within their jurisdiction; in the streets of which, by day and night, gangs of thieves and pick-pockets, with singular audacity, beset passengers, and plundered them forcibly, or by stealth, of their property; while knots of house-breakers by night continually increased their depredations on the dwellings and warehouses of the inhabitants; so that scarcely any house was a security against their daring attacks. He suggested the propriety and necessity of the reputable parishioners forming associations, and exerting their vigilance and activity to prevent such alarming crimes in their neighbourhoods, and to bring offenders to justice.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETIN.

"*Windsor Castle, Nov. 30.*

"His Majesty remains nearly in the same state."

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

"A matrimonial overture was no doubt made by an Illustrious Personage to a distinguished Heiress, without any reserve or disguise. A circumstance so unexpected naturally excited considerable anxiety in the breast of Mrs. J——, and led to a serious correspondence and explanation on this distressing subject. The consequence was, a request on the part of Mrs. J—— highly honourable to her feelings, viz. that her residence with the Duke might in future be considered as that of a *friend*; but this proposal not being approved of, the alternative was a separation, which speedily took place!—His Royal Highness, however, from domestic considerations that do him much honour, expressed unfeigned concern for the necessity of this separation, and, by the whole of his subsequent conduct, demonstrated the most lively and affectionate regard for the welfare of Mrs. J—— and her family. He has informed her, "that if their love must terminate, his friendship for her would never cease;"—paid her every tribute of merit for her domestic virtues, and assured her, that the amiable mother of his ten children must ever be endeared to him by ties indissoluble:—that her daughters shall remain under her parental protection:—that of his fortune, she shall possess any portion that may meet her own wishes, and the desire of her friends, and these she has only to declare, to have them instantly ratified:—

trusting that he cannot manifest his invariable approbation of her conduct for twenty years, better than by requesting that his daughters may continue under her guidance, and be educated under her roof."—An arrangement for the future establishment of Mrs. J—— and family succeeded, with an express injunction from his Royal Highness, that it should be liberally founded and secured, without any consideration of his own personal privations. This, we understand, has been effected in the amplest manner, conformably to the whole tenor of a Princely conduct towards the continuing object of his esteem, who, on her part, declares herself very sensibly impressed on this occasion, with every sentiment of grateful regard!"—*Morning Herald.*

THE ARMY.

Tower Hamlets Militia.—Captain Hawker and Lieutenant Jackson, of the 2d regiment, were put under arrest at Deptford on the 2d ult., and so remained till the 25th, when they were released without having been brought to trial.—Much secrecy has been maintained on the subject of their arrests, but it is understood that they arose out of the following circumstances:—

Two deserters, named *Jones* and *Cleveland*, had been sentenced by a Court-Martial to be flogged and *marked*. Instead of receiving this punishment, they were allowed to volunteer into the Duke of York's regiment, which is contrary to the Articles of War. Though one of these men had been a deserter for several months, and the other for several years, yet it is understood that the above Officers signed the discharges of these men as having served "honestly and faithfully." When Jones and Cleveland offered themselves to the Guards, it was discovered that they were under the sentence of a Court-Martial for not having served "honestly and faithfully;" they were of course refused; and it is reported that it was for signing their discharges Capt. Hawker and Lieut. Jackson were arrested.—What the cause has been, which has procured their release without a trial, is not known; but it is to be lamented that the business has not been brought before a public tribunal, not certainly on account of the two Officers named, who may have been comparatively innocent, but in order that the *system* pursued in the regiment might have been again exposed, as on the trial of Captain and Adjutant Mason, by which exposure *some* good has been effected.—As the case now stands, it is *the public only* that suffer. The two men have got their discharge, and have been refused admittance into the regulars; so that the public must find bounties for two other men as substitutes for those improperly discharged, as the Tower Hamlets must have their due complement of men.

It is understood that this incorrect mode of signing discharges has long prevailed,—and it is believed that Captain Hawker might have defended himself, as Mr. Attorney-General lately did, on the ground that he did not commence the obnoxious system. Capt. Mason must be well aware of these things; and even Col. Smith must remember the case of Thomas Halfhide, who was certified to have served "honestly and faithfully" for the term of "thirteen years and four months," though Col. Smith himself, in a letter to the Secretary at War, after the signing this man's discharge, declared that Halfhide had been a deserter from July 1800 to March 1803!!—No man knows better than the Judge-Advocate-General the scandalous way in which the accounts of this regiment, particularly as relating to deserters and their effects, were kept, or rather not kept,—and another examination into them would doubtless have well repaid the labour; some abuses, however, have been rectified, and the Secretary at War is well aware of the necessity of keeping a vigilant eye upon every occurrence in a regiment, which is under the controul of such a man as Capt. Mason.

LICENCING MAGISTRATES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—You are hereby requested to contradict the Paragraph which appeared in your Paper of the 6th of Oct. last, respecting the licensing certain houses, at the Bush Inn, Staines, the greater and most material part thereof being unfounded, and inserted without my knowledge or consent,—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

John Coggan.

Staines, November 30, 1811.

[If the worthy Magistrate had pointed out the "unfounded" passages of the paragraph alluded to, it would certainly have been more satisfactory.—The author of it will see that it is his duty to explain the cause of this contradiction, as he is charged with having made the *Examiner* a vehicle of falsehood.]

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

On Monday there was a full attendance of the friends of the Liberty of the Press, at the Crown and Anchor, convened by public Advertisement, to consider the claims of Mr. White to public support.

Sir Francis Burdett having taken the Chair, proceeded to state the object of the Meeting. He congratulated the friends of the Liberty of the Press on the very respectable appearance of the present Meeting; and he felt it a great personal compliment to himself, to meet so numerous an attendance upon a subject which appeared to him so interesting. It was hardly necessary for him to detail the advantages generally flowing from the Liberty of the Press. Those advantages were at all times obvious; but they were of more than ordinary importance in such times as we now live in, when we had seen almost all the other rights and liberties of Englishmen materially trenched upon—when those constituted authorities and institutions which had been looked up to by our ancestors as their protection from oppression, had been themselves so undermined and deteriorated by the progress of general corruption, that they failed in affording the same protection and security which were formerly derived from them. The public press might in some respects be considered the eye of the country; and while that was protected, the country would not remain in darkness. While there should remain but one honest man in the conduct of the public press, who was determined to make abuses known, that man would be entitled to the gratitude and support of the public. With respect to Mr. White, there were particular circumstances in his conduct which entitled him to their marked approbation. He had shewn a very peculiar and uncommon degree of courage in resolving to stand his trial under the most disheartening circumstances, and in opposition not only to all legal advice, but to the opinions of many, whom he well knew to be the sincere and real friends of liberty. It had been his own opinion, that, at the time Mr. White was smarting under the effects of a three years' solitary imprisonment in a distant gaol, and when there appeared so little probability of his succeeding on the trial, he ought to have let judgment go against him by default. Mr. White, however, resisted the earnest advice, which had been given him in consideration of his past sufferings and peculiar circumstances, and resolved to expose himself again to the hazard of a trial, which might have occasioned his total ruin, if not his death. By so determining, he has rendered a most important service to the public. There had been other sentences on persons convicted of libels, perhaps

equally severe with that of Mr. White. He had been imprisoned three years for two libels; whereas Mr. Cobbett had been sentenced to two years' imprisonment upon one conviction, and also sentenced to pay a very heavy fine. In that case there appeared to be an excess of punishment, both in the fine and the imprisonment. Mr. White's punishment, however, had been aggravated by the severe, and (as he always thought) illegal hardship of distant and solitary confinement. If the House of Commons was not as it now is, it appeared to him, that the practice of sending persons to distant gaols, and solitary confinement, would not be endured a moment. This was one of the old grievances of the country,—one of those grievances which produced the rebellion in the reign of Charles I. This was one of the punishments of the old Star-Chamber, which invented tortures, not warranted by the spirit of English law. This was one of the old grievances of the country, which, in former times, had cost one Monarch his head; and which finally expelled his family from the throne.—He could not avoid considering, that the acquittal of Mr. White had formed a new era in the country, as far as regarded the law of libel. The Jury have, in this case, determined, that it is the *evil intention* which constitutes guilt. This decision, so consonant to justice and to reason, overturned the fallacious sophistry, which Crown Lawyers had been accustomed to address to juries upon the subject. How dreadful had been hitherto the situation of a person, whom the Attorney-General was pleased to prosecute for a libel! How difficult was it to obtain an acquittal, when exposed to all the power of Government and all its arts! In the first instance, the person charged with the offence was deprived of the benefit of a Grand Jury, by the information *ex officio*. In the next place, he was deprived of the chance that he might have from a common Jury to try him, as the Attorney-General took care to have special juries upon such occasions. When Mr. White, in spite of the forebodings and forewarnings of his legal advisers and his friends, resolved upon the bold and decided step of meeting his trial, and again exposing himself to the most severe punishments, he did it with a perfect knowledge of the difficulties he had to encounter; but he relied upon the character of an English Jury, that they would not pronounce guilt where there was evidently no evil intention. This conviction appeared to be well founded; and the result of his decision was a verdict, which appeared to him to be one of the most important that has been pronounced since the Revolution. As to the law of libel, as it is called, no one can read the newspapers without being struck with the severity of punishments inflicted upon those who are said to have offended against that law, and also with the great uncertainty that exists about the law itself. The punishments seemed to carry the mark of the Star Chamber; but as for the law, nobody could shew when it existed. Indeed it was evident, that not only the measure of punishment, but the opinion of what was or was not a libel, depended upon the particular character and colour of mind of each particular Judge who sat upon the bench. The practice of proceeding by information, it appeared, had lately been carried to such a length, that even one of the Judges could not avoid expressing his disgust at it. At the Judge's *shaking his head*, the Attorney-General felt himself completely taken by surprise, and seemed to confess that he had carried it too far. He could conceive the feelings of an Attorney-General, in such a moment, to be somewhat like those attributed by Milton to the devil on one occasion, when "abashed he stood, divested of his malice." (He forgot the words of the author, but that was the idea). In like manner, an Attorney-General could, for a moment, give way to a conscientious feeling—(*a laugh*). It appeared as if the Judge's shaking his head had a sort of magical effect, to present to his eye a mirror of his mind, which made him startle at his own shadow. His reply, that he had not introduced the practice, was like the common answer of those detected in the meanest crimes. They would all say, that they were not the first who committed such offences. The Attorney-General appeared in a situation somewhat like one of those persons who were formerly possessed with devils. If such a person was duly exorcised, it appeared that the devil was bound to tell the truth. The Judge's shaking his head appeared to have produced the same effect on the mind of the Attorney-General; and he did not attempt to defend this practice, but merely said, that he was not the person who had introduced it. This circumstance was of importance, as shewing the light in which such practices were viewed, when there was no immediate interest in upholding them.—It would be an idle waste of time for him to go into a detail of all the advantages which were to be derived from the Liberty of the Press. It was evident that there could be no liberty without a free press. There were some people, however, who carried their notions about the Liberty of the Press to such an extent, that they conceived that a man ought to be permitted with impunity to publish whatever he thought proper, or, at all events, whatever could not be proved to be false. This was, however, not his opinion. He thought, that if a man, maliciously intending to wound and injure his neighbour, judged that he could do it more effectually by using the pen than the dagger, such a man ought to be punished for the wounds and injuries he has inflicted, if a malicious intention could be proved. It appeared to him that the whole question should turn upon the *motive*, and whether there was a malicious intention in the mind of the writer. When an individual, however, felt it his duty to expose some great public abuse, or some part of that system of chicanery and knavery, which is commonly called politics, it by no means followed that such an individual was actuated by any malicious motive. A man who acted in such a manner from public spirited motives, was, on the contrary, entitled to the gratitude and support of his country, instead of deserving blame. He hoped that it would not be supposed that he had any very extravagant notions about the liberty of the press, when he considered that it should hardly be subjected to any other restraint, except that a man should not be permitted in this more than in any other way, maliciously to injure or wound the feelings of his neighbours. He knew there were some who thought it absurd that truth should, in any case, be considered a libel. He was not one of those who entertained that opinion; for he thought malignant truths might be published as well as malignant falsehoods. There might be truths which it would destroy the peace of families, as well as the happiness of individuals, to publish; and which could only be published for the purposes of malignity. In all such cases, he thought that those who, from malicious motives, inflicted wounds and injuries on others, ought to be punished. Men should be curbed and restrained from practices like these; but they should be restrained by some general, uniform law, which should apply equally to all cases. If the rule were, however, to be (as it almost seems to be at present) that those who write upon one side of a question may publish whatever libels they please, however false or malignant; but that those who write on the *other* side are to be absolutely ruined and destroyed, if they should write any thing that can be construed a libel, the law would be to one party as a cobweb, not strong enough to hold a fly, but to the other party as chains of iron, from which there was no escaping. He was convinced that something must soon be done to put this question of libel on a proper footing. The public were now completely disgusted both with the manner in which those trials were carried on, and with the severity of the sentences. In those public prosecutions, the Government appeared intent on treading out the sparks of truth; but they sometimes flew up in their faces.—As to public men, he by no means meant to say, that because a man held a public situation, he was therefore obliged to submit to all manner of malignant libels without appealing to the law for redress. The conduct of public men was, however, a fairer subject of examination; and much the greater part of what might be said against them, it was not worth their while to prosecute for. As to every thing relating to the discharge of their duty in their public situations, it was of great importance that the country should be acquainted; and therefore such publications should rather be supposed to be made for the public good, than from any motive of private malice. In points not connected with their public duty, he did not see that public men were bound to such forbearance, as to allow themselves to be falsely and maliciously attacked. He therefore hoped, that in delivering those sentiments, he would be acquitted from the

charge of entertaining any very extravagant notions with respect to the liberty of the press. He was ready, however, on the present occasion, as he had professed himself on many others, to shew that his opinions were founded on the law of the country, and to cite chapter and verse. He had always read with great pleasure the old laws of the country; as in those ancient statutes he could always discover the old notions of English humanity and jurisprudence. There was, in fact, only one law in existence which had any reference to the subject, and that was the law respecting what was called *scandalum magnatum*. As to what is now called libel, there is no law whatever describing the offence. The word "libel" is a mere cabalistic or conjuring word, to which Lawyers and Judges give whatever signification they think proper. The word libel, properly speaking, signifies only *little book*; and certainly the writing a little book cannot itself be a crime. The existing law, with respect to *scandalum magnatum*, provided that "when false reports were spread of persons in high situations, the person who propagated such false report should be answerable, unless he should deliver up his author.". The old law did not make every person connected with the propagation of a false report equally responsible; but said, that the propagator should be answerable, unless he delivered up his author.—This distinction was perfectly reasonable, because, if the person publishing such reports refused to give up his authority, he must be considered as having adopted it. This reasonable provision was not at all attended to in modern practice. All who were in any degree connected with publishing what the Attorney-General considered a libel, were placed within his grasp. Sometimes he held that the author was much more guilty than the publisher, and sometimes that the publisher was much more guilty than the author. It appeared as if there was no other principle in selecting the object of prosecution, except that the man who was most obnoxious to the Government or the Law Officers was the person most proper to be fastened on. The old law which he had mentioned was reasonable enough; and the fact was, there was no other law upon the subject. The modern practice, indeed, appeared to be derived from the Star-Chamber; a Court which he hoped had fallen, like Lucifer, never to rise again. When he considered to what a degree the press of this country had been made the instrument of corruption, he found it hard to determine in his own mind, whether more evil or good was derived from it in its present state; but if there were only some few rivulets of truth flowing through the land, great care should be taken that those rivulets should not be turned into poisoned waters. If there were to be only one man in the country who would venture to publish the truth, to that man the public should cling, as to a thing preserved from the wreck, and as the only hope of the regeneration of the country.—In stating the objects of the meeting, he hoped that he had put the case of Mr. White on its proper merits. There were many others now suffering under sentences for libels, who were, in his opinion, entitled to rewards and the gratitude of the country for the part they had taken. It was impossible, however, in the present times, when the system of Government had dried up all the sources of private benevolence, to collect by subscription money sufficient to indemnify and remunerate all those who were entitled to remuneration and gratitude from the country. He would say, however, as to Mr. White, that he felt much obliged to him for those statements which drew upon him the severity of that sentence which he had suffered.—Whether the accounts of the trial (that of Captain Chapman) which appeared in the daily newspapers, were strictly correct or not, he thought that Mr. White had a right to express the impression which the reading the trial made upon his mind, and to find fault with the decision of the Jury, if the evidence was as it was reported to be. Of the meritorious individuals now under imprisonment, he knew no one more entitled to public gratitude and support than Mr. Drakard, who had published (in the *Stamford News*) a most able and eloquent article against the present system of military punishments, which stigmatizes our country among the other nations of Europe. Mr. Cobbett had also been sentenced to a very severe punishment, for an article of the same complexion. He, for his part, should at all times, and in all places, declare freely his opinion on that subject. When he saw men tied up to receive lashes like dogs, he thought the punishment not only so disgraceful to a soldier, but to the human form, that he thought it ought not to be tolerated upon the earth. Perhaps he might be said to be uttering libels; but if he were not allowed freely to express his sentiments on subjects such as these, he would much rather die than live. He would be happy to see a general subscription, which would be large enough to embrace all meritorious individuals suffering from similar sentences; but he despaired of seeing any subscription being collected which would be adequate to such an object; and thought the case of Mr. White might be allowed to rest on its own peculiar merits, and the claims to support which he had already stated. He could also mention, that Mr. White had been put to very great expence, both by his long imprisonment, and that of his printer (whom he supported), and also by the number of prosecutions in which he was involved, including the expence of his own appeal to the House of Lords.—Upon the whole, it appeared to him that the general aspect of affairs had somewhat improved. Besides the verdict which had been obtained by Mr. White, he must also congratulate the friends of liberty on the verdict lately obtained in Ireland, whereby the great mass of that good-natured, generous, and careless people, who have long borne the most cruel injuries, are restored to the protection of the law, and the power of preparing their Petitions in the way that they think best suited to their object, by delegates of their own choice.—The recognition of such a right was of full as much importance as the decision of the Jury in Mr. White's case,—that the crime of libel consisted in the malicious intention. If those great principles should be firmly established by these verdicts, they would produce a most important and happy era in the history of our laws.—He concluded by apologising for the length of time he had found it necessary to detain them; and stating, that his friend, Alderman Wood, had some resolutions to propose to their consideration.

Alderman WOOD bore testimony to the firmness which Mr. White had displayed in determining to expose himself again to the hazard of a severe sentence, after having already suffered so much. Not only his professional advisers, but he himself, and many of his friends, had endeavoured to dissuade Mr. White from exposing himself to so great a peril; but he resisted all their suggestions, and was content to rely on an English Jury. In this reliance it appeared that he was well founded; and he felt proud that in the City of London such Juries were to be found. He hoped they would also be to be found in every part of the Empire.—He concluded by moving certain resolutions in favour of a public subscription for Mr. White.

Mr. WALKER seconded the resolutions. He was happy to see so numerous and respectable a Meeting assembled, under the auspices of a man who had always stood forward in support of those who were oppressed and persecuted for speaking the truth, and in the honest discharge of their duty to their country. In the free discussion of a question of public interest, Mr. White had perhaps been too severe, or unceremonious in his comments upon a Jury; but for that offence, such as it was, he had already suffered the dreadful punishment of three years' imprisonment in a distant gaol, far removed from his friends and the seat of his business. As to any possible injury which this libel could have done, it must be recollected, that the whole evidence was before the public; and that it was open to every other political writer to defend the Judge and the Jury, and point out, if he could, what it was that Mr. White had misstated. He perfectly agreed with the Hon. Chairman, that there was something very unintelligible in the law of libel, according to the modern practice. One Judge had told a person convicted of this offence, that his offences had increased with his years, although he had not been before convicted. This was certainly very like what the Hon. Baronet had formerly described, as "paying off old scores" to any person obnoxious to the Government.

The Resolutions were then carried unanimously, and the Meeting adjourned.

LAW.

COURT OF ARCHES, DOCTORS' COMMONS.

WATSON AND WATSON *v.* FAREMOUTH AND OTHERS.

This was a proceeding by Mr. John Faremouth, and Mr. and Mrs. Dewer, of Darlington, in Devonshire, to annul the marriage of Mr. Samuel Watson, of Highweek, in Devonshire, with Catherine Kingwell, his present wife, on the ground of affinity, she being *the sister of his former wife*. Considerable property is given by the will of Mr. Watson's deceased mother to the parties promoting the suit, in the event of her son's death without lawful issue. As he has none but by his last marriage, their object in the present suit was, to obtain a sentence declaratory of the invalidity of that fact; thereby illegitimatising the children, and enabling themselves to lay claim to the estate.—The evidence in support of the application to the Court for this purpose consisted of the usual registers, proving the relationship and the first marriage; but there was none to prove the precise fact of the second marriage, farther than the cohabitation of the parties in the character of man and wife, reputation, and their mutual acknowledgments of their being so, and the baptism of their children as such.

Sir JOHN NICHOLL recapitulated the evidence, which he thought fully established the facts, as far as the parties possibly could. He was the more disposed to consider it sufficient, from the consideration that the opposite parties had not made any attempt to offer evidence in disproof of it. There was, besides, the admission of Mr. Watson of the fact of the second marriage; who also said he had consulted four Ministers, who told him there was no harm in it, but it was contrary to law. In this part of the case it was important to the public, as well as the individuals concerned; for, if an impression had gone abroad that an incestuous marriage, or a cohabitation under the colour of marriage, of such a nature as the present, was not criminal; it was high time that impression should be destroyed. The Court, therefore, could not but think, that the proof of the facts, with the corroborations adduced, accompanied by the declarations of the party himself, was sufficient to justify a sentence declaratory of the illegality of the marriage, if any such had, in fact, taken place. The Court felt the more fortified in this decision, by the reflection, that this was an incestuous cohabitation that ought to be put an end to; that, if no fact of marriage had taken place, no person could be injured by that fact being declared illegal, null, and void: and if it had, the Court was then only discharging the duty it owed both to the other parties in the cause, and to the public. The marriage, therefore, if in fact had, was accordingly pronounced *null and void*.—[The parties have been married eighteen years, and have four children.]

LEE *v.* LEE.

This was a proceeding for a divorce, brought by the Rev. Francis Lee, against his wife, Mrs. Catharine Lee, grounded on a charge of criminal conversation with Major Blaquiere.—The parties were married in the month of July, 1804, and had one child. In the summer of the year 1806, they first became acquainted with Major Blaquiere. He was introduced at their house, in Gloucester-place, and shortly afterwards accompanied them to Ramsgate. In the course of their stay there, Mrs. Lee's behaviour to the Major became so marked, as to become the subject of general observation; and her husband frequently remonstrated with her upon it. Major Blaquiere shortly afterwards went with his regiment to Spain. During his absence, in consequence of domestic disturbances with her husband, Mrs. Lee had eloped from him; and upon the Major's return, she, about April, 1809, fled to him for protection. An intercourse then took place between them, and was carried on at different apartments, where they passed as man and wife. This coming to Mr. Lee's knowledge, he, with the assistance of some Police Officers, watched the Major from his apartments, in Beaumont-street, to Mrs. Lee's, in Wimpole-street; but he was recognised by the Major, who knocked him down; in consequence of which Mr. Lee was confined to his room for a considerable time. He then brought an action against the Major, and obtained a verdict for 500*l.* damages.

Mrs. Lee's Counsel admitted these facts; but objected to the divorce, on the ground, that Mr. Lee's conduct was such as to bar him from any remedy.

Sir JOHN NICHOLL was, however, of opinion, that there was no evidence to justify such an inference; and he must pronounce for the divorce, which he did accordingly.

OLD BAILEY.

CHILD STEALING.

On Friday *Elizabeth Russel*, alias *Ruxton*, was tried on an indictment charging her with stealing certain articles of wearing apparel, the property of James Dellow.

Mrs. Cox deposed that she lived in St. Martin's-lane, Cannon-street. She was acquainted with James Dellow and his wife; the former is a warehouseman, in the City. On the 18th of November, Mrs. Dellow being ill, sent her little son, Thomas Dellow, a child of three years of age, and his sister, five years of age, to witness, to be taken care of. In the course of that morning a lady came into the shop, to purchase some apples, and witness at that time having the little boy in her arms, she put him down and proceeded to serve her customer. The lady seemed to take particular notice of the children, and gave them some of the apples she had bought. At that moment a young woman came in to purchase some potatoes, and after her came another person to make some other purchase.—Having served these persons, witness for the first time missed the lady and the children. She immediately went out in search of them, and after some time she saw the little girl running down the street; with an apple in one hand and a small plum cake in the other. The child told her that she had been with the lady, who told her to go home, and said she would take her brother to his mother. The little boy was dressed in a light-coloured frock, a black skirt, blue pinbefore, and a pair of leather half-boots. Witness, although she had a perfect recollection that the lady was very genteelly dressed, could not remember the colour of her garments, nor could she recognize her person.

Mary Bagnell deposed, that she lived at Mrs. Slate's, pastry-cook's shop, on Fish-street-hill. On the 18th of November, the prisoner came into her mistress's shop, dressed in a blue cloth cloak trimmed with fur, a straw hat with a blue flower, a dark coloured gown and white apron; she was accompanied by a little boy dressed as described by the last witness, and a little girl.—The sister of the little boy was then put forward, and witness recognised her to be the same child that accompanied the prisoner. She purchased two plum and two seed cakes, and then went out of the shop with the children. Inquiries were made in five minutes afterwards, when witness gave all the information she could on the subject.

Miss Slate corroborated the testimony of the last witness.

Anne Wakefield deposed that she lived at Messrs. Payton and Co.'s, hatters, on Fish-street-hill. On the 18th November a lady came into her master's shop; she was dressed in a blue cloak trimmed with fur, and wore a straw hat and a blue flower, but she could not recollect her person. She had a little boy with her, who wore a blue pinbefore. She put the child on the counter, and asked for a hat of the value of half a guinea, and on getting it, she asked for a feather, which witness brought her. Witness then asked her if she should set it in, but she said no, as she was in a great hurry; she then paid eleven shillings and went out. Witness was present at Union-hall when the little girl, the sister of the child stolen, pointed out the

prisoner from amongst other ladies, as the person who had taken her to the pastry-cook's shop, and had taken her brother away. This was eight days afterwards.

John Shergold deposed, that he was a labourer in the service of the East India Company, and uncle of the child stolen. He received such information as induced him to go to the lodgings of the prisoner in Trafalgar-place, Lock's-fields; he was accompanied by two officers. On arriving at the house, he was told she was not at home: the landlady however promised to send for her, which she did. Here it appeared, from the testimony of the witness as to the conversation he had with the prisoner, that she was a woman of loose character.—He first saw her in the front room in the second floor, but not seeing any thing there which could lead to a discovery of his nephew, he persuaded her to take him into the back room, which he also surveyed with a scrutinizing eye, but was still unable to gain any trace of what he so much desired. He then asked her to put on her cloak, with a view to see whether it tallied with the description he had heard from the pastry-cook's shop; but she refused, and proposed making him a comfortable cup of tea, as she supposed he was going to stop all night with her. After some further conversation he called up Goff, one of the officers who accompanied him, and at once told the prisoner the object of his visit. She seemed much hurt, and asked how he had obtained any direction to her. Witness then told her that he had been informed by a gentleman who had lost a child, but had found it again, that it was stolen by a person who wore a blue cloak and feathers in her hat. The prisoner then said she had no such clothes, and offered to shew her wardrobe to witness. Witness, however, refused to see them, and said, if she was an innocent woman she would have no objection to see the servant of the pastry cook's, where the lady who had stolen the child had purchased some cakes. The prisoner declared herself perfectly willing to see any one. Witness then sent for Mary Bagnell, who recognized the prisoner as the lady who had purchased the cakes for the children. Witness next proposed that she should accompany him to the hatter's on Fish-street-hill, to which she also agreed. On their way, the prisoner questioned him closely as to the mode of his discovering her. Witness then told her that he had heard she was accused of taking a child before. She confessed she had, but that she had the mother's permission. Witness then asked her if she had permission to have the child, why she beat it? She confessed she had slapped it, but not to hurt it. By this time they had arrived at the hatter's shop, where the witness asked Ann Wakefield if she could recollect her. She said, she was about the same height of the person who bought the hat for the child, but she did not remember her person. Upon hearing her talk, however, she said she knew her voice, and firmly believed her to be the person who bought the hat for little Dellow.

John Mills, formerly a soldier in the Guards, deposed that he plyed as a porter in Thames-street. On the 18th of November, he saw the prisoner driving two little children before her: the eldest seemed reluctant to go, and the prisoner took the youngest in her arms, and said she was going to buy cakes for them. Witness followed them to the end of the street, his attention being attracted by the prisoner "rather snubbing them." Shortly afterwards he saw the little girl return alone with some cakes in its hand. He was positive as to the person of the prisoner.

On the part of the prisoner, her Landlady was called, and she positively swore, that she had not quitted her lodgings on the 18th of November. She also swore most positively that she had not a blue cloak in her possession.

She was corroborated in this fact by *Mary Wright*, a washerwoman; who also said, although on terms of intimacy with the prisoner, she had never seen a blue cloak in her room.

Several witnesses were then examined to the prisoner's character, who all bore testimony to her general good conduct.

The Recorder observed, that there was nothing to fix the prisoner with guilt but her identity; he then instanced a case in which six witnesses had sworn to the person of a gentleman as having committed a robbery at Hampstead, who afterwards proved to demonstration, that he was in London at the time at which it was said he had been guilty of the offence imputed to him. Having then adverted to the *alibi* proved on the part of the prisoner, he exhorted the Jury to divest their minds of all prejudice, and form their judgment wholly on the evidence before them. If they had any doubt as to her guilt, her good character ought to be thrown into the scale of mercy—if, on the contrary, they were fully convinced of her criminality, they would return a verdict accordingly,

The Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of—Acquittal.

Several females were carried out of the Court in a state of insensibility during the trial, from the crowded state of every part of it. The trial lasted from five until nearly ten o'clock.

CHARGE OF MURDER.

Honer Brown, aged twenty-nine, was tried on an indictment charging her with the wilful murder of Stephen Brown, her husband, on the 5th of November last.

Elizabeth Andrews deposed, that she lived in Greenfield-street, Stepney. She was acquainted with the deceased, who was the husband of the prisoner; they lived together at No. 2, York-street, Commercial-road. She was in the habit of going to their house to wash and mend the clothes of two children whom they had. Witness went to their house on the morning of the 5th of November, about 8 o'clock, and shortly after that time heard the prisoner and the deceased quarrelling with some violence; after which the deceased went out, and remained abroad until one o'clock, when he returned, and went into the kitchen where witness then was. At this period the prisoner was in company with a gentleman in the parlour.—The deceased sent up one of his children, a little girl about nine years of age, to tell her mother that he wanted his dinner. The child having accordingly gone up stairs, she returned, saying that her mother said he should have it immediately. Having waited a quarter of an hour, the deceased became impatient, and sent the child up again to her mother, and on her return, he asked her if Mr. Grant (meaning a neighbour) was with her mother? to which she replied, "No." The deceased, however, suspecting this statement to be false, went up to the first floor window, and on looking out, observed Grant quitting his door; upon which he abused him, and said he should not again come into his house. He then returned to the kitchen, whither the prisoner had gone, and, after some altercation, the latter said she would not have her friends abused. Witness, the deceased, and the child, then had their dinner, af-

ter which the deceased again went out. The prisoner soon afterwards got a trunk, and began to put her clothes in it; and upon the deceased returning in half an hour, she said she was going to leave him that night; to which the deceased said he did not care, and, with an oath, said Grant should not come there. After this, the deceased went up stairs to the bedroom, and the prisoner continued packing up her clothes in the trunk. Witness then went into the yard, and was absent about ten minutes. On her return she found Mrs. Brown in the parlour, sitting at the window. She could not say whether the prisoner had packed any more things during her absence, or whether they remained in the same state. The prisoner went out to the house of a Mrs. Hopwood, at No. 4, in the same street, and while she was gone, witness heard a noise of something like the motion of a chair over head. She immediately ran out, and meeting the prisoner on her return, she desired her to go up stairs, as there was something the matter. The prisoner, however, refused to go up, and desired witness to fetch up a little box with duplicates in it from a drawer in the room where Mr. Brown was. Witness immediately went up, and saw the deceased with a cord round his neck hanging upon the bed-post. Having a small knife in her hand, with which she had been ripping stays, she cut the cord and let the body fall on the bed, and taking the cord from his neck, she went down stairs with it in her hand, in great alarm, and cried "O, Mrs. Brown, he has hung himself!" and she threw the cord into the fire. The prisoner immediately desired her to send for Rebecca, her daughter; and on the child coming, she desired her to go up stairs to her father, who was in a fit. When the child returned, the prisoner said, "O, fetch Mr. Bennett." [a Surgeon.] She then went up stairs, and on Mr. Bennett coming, he said the deceased was no more! Witness did not tell Mr. Bennett that she had found the deceased hanging, but that he had died in a fit. She could not account for having made this representation. Mrs. Brown was present when she said so, but did not contradict her. She had no conversation with Mrs. Brown subsequently relative to the death of the deceased, except in the presence of a Mrs. Hopwood and her servant, when both she and Mrs. Brown said he had died in a fit. She did not mention that she had found Mr. Brown hanging until the Officer took her to Lambeth-street Police-office on the Tuesday following. She was examined before the Coroner two days subsequent to the death of Mr. Brown, but she did not then tell he had hanged himself. She could not account for this neglect. The deceased was about forty years of age,—he had been in the hospital for a complaint in his knees, but was of sound health. When she found him hanging, a chair stood by the side of the bed. A piece of cord was here produced, which witness said was similar to that she had found on the neck of the deceased.—On her cross-examination she said she conceived it would be impossible for any person to hang the deceased without using very great strength and violence, of which there was no appearance. The prisoner had frequently been ill-treated by the deceased.

Several other witnesses were examined in support of the charge, but their testimony did not go more forcibly to confirm the prisoner's guilt, but rather tended to prove that the probability was, that the deceased had been instrumental to his own death.—The prisoner was consequently acquitted.

POLICE.

MANSION-HOUSE.

On Monday, *Elizabeth Russell*, otherwise *Ruxton*, was brought up for re-examination, on the charge of stealing the son of Mrs. Dellow. The prisoner had been remanded merely to give her an opportunity of reflecting on her situation, and extricating herself from further prosecution, by disclosing to the parents what she knew of the disposal of the child. She was now asked, whether she had complied with the conditions; but she again persisted most solemnly in her innocence.—The LORD MAYOR then declared, that he had quite made up his mind as to the proceeding he was bound to take, and he must therefore be under the necessity, however painful, of committing her finally for trial. The several witnesses before examined had then their respective depositions read to them, to which they swore; and the parties were bound over to prosecute.—*John Mills*, the soldier of the 1st Foot Guards, in addition, said, that he actually saw the prisoner take the little child up in her arms, at the corner of St. Martin's-lane, Cannon-street.—The prisoner was committed; and on hearing the decision of the Magistrate, she fainted away in the arms of the Constables, and was carried to an adjacent room in a state of insensibility.

ANOTHER CHARGE OF CHILD STEALING.—A woman named *Revel*, of respectable appearance, residing in Draper's-buildings, came forward in the greatest agitation, and in tears, to make a complaint similar to the last. She said, that about three weeks since, she was delivered of a female infant, and had employed a woman to attend her as nurse, named Cross, during her illness. At the end of a fortnight, some circumstances occurred which prevented her from keeping this nurse any longer, and she discharged her. The day following, she (Cross) came to her and told her that a particular friend of her's was below stairs, who much desired to be permitted to see the child, and asked leave to take it down and shew it to her, which Mrs. Revel permitted, but gave her an earnest charge not to keep the infant long in the cold. Cross then took the child away, but never since returned with it, leaving the afflicted mother in the utmost anguish; and never having since been able to learn any tidings of the child or the nurse. She added, that she was informed Cross was seen standing that day, with another woman, at her door, and both walked off together, with the child.—Under these circumstances, she applied for a warrant to apprehend Cross. She acknowledged, however, that she had no clue whatever to trace her out.—The LORD MAYOR said, he could not grant a warrant, until he knew that the person to be apprehended was resident within his jurisdiction. He told her, however, that she was warranted to take her into custody whenever she could find her.

THIRD CHARGE.—A respectable looking woman also appeared in the utmost distress; and stated, that five weeks since, a little boy, her son, about ten years of age, had been taken away, and she had ever since been unable to get any account of him. She did not, however, suspect the prisoner Ruxton to have any thing to do with the transaction; but begged the Lord Mayor would advise her how to proceed. His Lordship answered, that he could do nothing for her, until she could trace out the person who had taken away the child.

MARRIAGES.

At Greenwich, on Tuesday last, by the Rev. J. Maule, Chaplain to the Royal Hospital, Lieut. John Woolward, R. N. Harbour Master of Ramsgate, to Miss Elizabeth Dewsnap, of Woodstock.

Lately, at Tetbury, Mr. Richard Capes, to Harriett, eldest daughter of R. M. Warman, Esq.

On Wednesday last, at St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, M. Linwood, jun., Esq., to Fanny, third daughter of Alexander Forrest, Esq. of Warstone House.

DEATHS.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Simpson, of Russell-court.

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